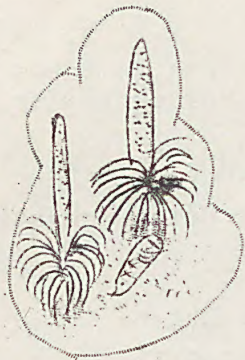


BALLARAT FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

EXCURSION/NEWS SHEET - SEPTEMBER 1976.



PRESIDENT Mr. G. Binns, 12 Pleasant St. Sth 323670
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ASST. SEC Mrs. F. Williamson, 1112 Ligar St 327631
TREASURER Mr. S. Reynolds, 22 Howitt St. 327721

NEXT MEETING: Friday 10th September, 8 p.m. at Ballarat School of Mines, Lydiard St. Sth. Please note a change of speaker as per syllabus. MR. M. WESTBROOK will talk on "Ecological problems caused by introduced Species."

OCTOBER MEETING: 1st October 1976: Mr. P. Day. Geology Subject.

NOVEMBER MEETING: 5th November 1976: Mr. P. Prevett. "Genetics of Small Mammals."

NEXT EXCURSION: SUNDAY 12th SEPTEMBER: TARNAGULLA. Cars leave Crockers 9.30 a.m. Meet Dunolly P.O. 11 a.m. (for any other Field Naturalists, who will be very welcome to join us). Later meet in main street, Tarnagulla 1.30 p.m. (after lunch). Leader Mrs. S. Bedggood.

FURTHER SEPTEMBER EXCURSION: on 26th SEPTEMBER for an afternoon in the Enfield Forest. Leaving Crockers Corner at 1.30 p.m.

OCTOBER EXCURSIONS: 3rd OCTOBER to Durham Lead for the afternoon, leaving at 1.30 p.m. And 17th OCTOBER, leaving 1.30 p.m. from Crockers Corner for Mt. Beckworth. Members, do come along on these outings, they are particularly enjoyable at this time of year - friends are welcome too.

AUGUST MEETING: Twenty one members attended the meeting on 6th August. Edna and Peter Fry were welcomed back after their three months trip abroad. Mr. Jack Wheeler, a foundation and life member of the Ballarat Club was present, and gave each member a copy of his booklet "The Care of Sick, Injured and Orphaned Native Birds and Animals." Mr. Wheeler's booklet is published by the Geelong Field Naturalist's Club for free distribution throughout Victoria, and eventually interstate.

Mr. Ern. Perkins of Castlemaine was the Guest Speaker and chose as his subject "The Geology and Flora of the Castlemaine District." He illustrated this with the aid of an aerial map and slides of the geological set up in the Castlemaine area; also many beautiful slides of the different types of bushlands, gums and native plants.

NEW MEMBERS: Misses Lorna and Jean Rutherford, Mrs. Giff and Mr. & Mrs. Schultz have been proposed, and welcomed as new members recently. We wish you all a very happy time with the Club.

AUGUST EXCURSION: Six cars with 19 members left Ballarat on a cold wet day. We met members of the Castlemaine Club and altogether 11 cars, with 20 adults and 10 juniors toured the Porcupine Ridge Road area.

A stop was made on the way at Table Hill where we examined a basalt layer through which the road was carved. The Hill offered fine views all round and easily recognized were Mt. Franklin, Mt. Tarrengower and Porcupine Ridge.

We soon forgot Ballarat weather as we enjoyed the sunshine, and studied the flora. The information supplied by Mr. Ern. Perkins gave a comprehensive list of plants, some being confined to particular areas such as *Pultenea pedunculata* - matted bush pea which covered the ground on both sides of the track in the Sebastopol Gully area. The scented bush pea - *Pultenea graveolens* - was found in a concentrated area also, whereas the endemic acacias were very widespread. There was little in flower, which made identification more difficult for the novice.

A red browed finch's nest, with the entrance neatly concealed, was found in a *Hakea sericea*. Birds seen during the day included wedge-

tailed eagles, galahs, blue wrens, little thornbills, white eared honey eater, scarlet robins, white winged choughs, grey currawong, red backed parrots and crimson rosellas.

Altogether an enjoyable day, and our thanks to Mr. Ern. Perkins and the Castlemaine Club.

Contributed - Miss Helen Burgess.

ANGAIR
ANGLESEA & AIREY'S INLET AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY
AUSTRALIAN WILDFLOWER SHOW -- ART & CRAFT DISPLAY

ANGLESEA HALL
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25th. SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26th
10 a.m. - 8 p.m. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
ADULTS 50c. CHILDREN 10c.

BOOK OFFER: Field Naturalists Club of Victoria has been able to offer a range of books of Natural History interest to members of Field Naturalist and Allied Clubs at a substantial discount on prices. This has encouraged members to purchase dear books that they would have otherwise refrained from buying. This list of books available will be of use to Clubs, the recommended price is quoted but a discount will be offered on purchase by Club members.

F.N.C.V. Sales Officer - D. E. McInnes, 129 Waverley Rd. East Malvern, 3145. The list of books available can be obtained from our Secretary or President.

WESTERN VICTORIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUBS ASSOCIATION
ROCKLANDS - BLACK RANGE MEETING, AUGUST 20-22.

FIELD PROGRAMME:

The Hamilton F.N.C. had organized a series of excursions that took participants into a range of habitats that make up this quite special area to the West of the Grampians. It was possible to study bird life of open forest, scrublands, heath and water ways and the vegetation associations of those areas - all within 26 km of the base camp by the Wall at Rocklands Dam. The main excursion took a large convoy along the north shore of the Dam to the Black Range where former aboriginal shelters and rock terraces were explored between the examination of the abundant flora species in the area.

Eighty-seven bird species had been listed by the Sunday evening, with records of nesting of Tufted and Yellow-winged Honey-eaters and the Red Wattle bird. With the Yellow Gums flowering, the population of Lorikeet and Honey Eater species was quite dense. Four species of Lorikeets were observed in numbers.

The lands covered in the field work of the week end are considered by the local naturalists to be with outstanding possibilities for nature conservation of features not found in the same abundance elsewhere, particularly in the types of free associations and their supporting flora and fauna. These are worthy of consideration and comment when the Land Conservation Council plans for the Zone are being decided in the near future.

MEETING OF W.V.F.N.A. - SOME NOTES: Following the resignation of Roger Thomas on his recent departure to New South Wales, Mrs. Hunt of the Geelong Club undertook duties as Acting Secretary for the remainder of the current year. Items for consideration and noting included:- The leasing of crown land at Moyston, for goat farming; a recommendation by Warrnambool Club concerning conservation of the Big Desert; further development of the plant classification list project of Mr. C. Beuglehole; the future programme of Campouts, particularly for 1977.

The minutes of the meeting will be available to members at a future date. Item topics were presented by (1) Hamilton Club - Concern over the Mt. Napier and Rocklands Areas; land usage for quarrying, grazing. (2) Sunraysia Club - Concern over saline drainage basins at Nangiloc; a recommended scheme to protect Wetlands habitat.

The Guest Speaker was Mr. Claud Austin, a member of the L.C.C. of Victoria. Mr. Austin impressed members with his explanations on

the functioning of the L.C.C. and its methods of approach on reports and recommendations.

Contributed - Mr. Greg. Binns.

ROCKLANDS CAMPOUT:

For those members who have not had the pleasure of visiting Rocklands Camping Ground and picnic area, I wholeheartedly recommend the trip - it is a very beautiful area, about 9 miles north east of Balmoral, with lovely views of the Grampians.

Twelve clubs participated with 135 people involved - approximately 60 staying at the Lodge and others camping or caravanning. As usual it was a happy, friendly atmosphere and excursions for bird watching and flower fossicking resulted in many and varied sightings. Of very special interest during one walk was the beautiful Shrub Violet (*Hibanthud floribundus*) in full flower and the interesting little Helmet Orchid. There was an abundance of flame heath, pink beard heath, *Grevillia Alpina*, *Hakea Sericia*, with many lovely acacias, including *A. verniciflua* (Varnish Wattle) and *A. acinacea* (Gold Dust Wattle) and many others.

On Friday night Mr. Eric Bound spoke of his recent trip to the gulf country and the explosion of growth and resultant population explosion in the bird colonies following good rains. His party listed well over 200 birds - and he particularly spoke of the numbers of bustards, whistling eagles and wedgetails.

Mr. Jack Wheeler told us that already 10,000 of his booklets have gone out and another 10,000 are expected to be ready for distribution by the end of September. It was very encouraging to see the number of young people present, right down to little Melanie Skilbeck who celebrated her 2nd birthday on Saturday. Would you believe a certain couple from our Club managed to lock themselves out of their lovely new caravan, resulting in much good-natured ribbing. Jack Wheeler left poor Trixie out in the cold also when he went off with the keys!! I did hear tell that when one turned over in bed at the lodge, that was the signal for all to turn - quite a noisy exercise! One young lass managed to become trapped in the toilet until help was summoned - never a dull moment!!

Contributed by Mrs. Florence Williamson.

ONE ANGLE OF STELLA & TED. BEDGGOOD'S TRIP TO INNAMINCKA.

We arrived at Innamincka in the dark after travelling through Broken Hill, Tibooburra and Santos and Orientos Stations. Even in a four wheeled drive vehicle we had been bogged. The days were mild but the nights extremely cold, just like the conditions in April 1861 when Burke, Wills and King started out from the Cooper, just west of Innamincka Station, to try and reach Mt. Hopeless and safety.

They had returned exhausted from the Gulf of Carpentaria to find the Depot deserted. Alan Moorehead in his book "Cooper's Creek" wrote - "Here the spaces are too vast, the sun too pitiless: time becomes an eventless continuum, and the daylight hours pass in a torpor." We could well imagine the privations the explorers endured.

Nowadays the old A.I.M. hospital stands in ruins, and the graves of pioneers and camel drivers stand stark on the empty landscape. The huge bottle heap has almost gone and there is little left of the old hotel.

The Cooper was still running water under the causeway, and it seemed little different to the description written by Burke, Wills and King. We noticed quicksand where a grader had become bogged, just like "Landa" their camel had, beside a waterhole. Nardoo was plentiful, the lignum was green after the floods, and hundreds of birds flew up and down the river.

Contributed by Mrs. Stella Bedggood.

ESPALIER EUCALYPTS: Trees can make or mar a garden. Use a few and place them carefully; do not plant a fifty foot giant in a restricted area! Trees trained as espaliers take little space and are most decorative. Has anyone tried *Eucalyptus rhodantha* in this way? I believe *Eucalyptus tetraptera* has been grown most successfully. (S.G.A.P. Newsletter.)

